

BOOK NOTICE

General Entomology by S. W. Frost, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York and London, 1942. 9 × 6 inches, x + 524 p., frontis., 406 illus. \$4.00.

This book by Professor Frost, designed as a text for elementary college entomology, is a stimulating and interesting introduction to the subject. It is not an economic entomology and its 23 chapters are devoted to the systematic position of insects, their origin and distribution, their abundance, size and reproductive capacity, the orders of insects, metamorphosis, immature forms, morphology, color, sounds, behavior, social insects, food habits, associations of plants and insects, leaf miners, leaf rollers, gall insects, borers, subterranean species, aquatic species, case-makers, and insect inactivity. In addition there is an appendix containing keys to immature forms and to lepidopterous and coleopterous larvæ, synonymy of order names, classification schemes of orders from Linnæus to the present time, and a table showing the generic distribution of North American leaf miners. The extensive list of important references at the end of each chapter is exceedingly useful and the numerous illustrations are uniformly excellent.

It is apparent that this book was written by one who is thoroughly saturated with knowledge on all phases of entomology and who is deeply interested in insects as living organisms. Seldom are so many diverse subjects brought together within a single book and presented so enthusiastically, and in a manner to awaken interest among students. Within this book will be found the present-day answers to many questions that arise within the minds of thoughtful students, questions relative to the origin and distribution of insects, reproductive capacity, poisonous insects, extrication of young from eggs, analysis of fecula, insect coloration, insect color vision, photogenic organ of the firefly, insect sounds, commensalism, food habits, parasites, insect burrows, habits, sleep, cave fauna and others too numerous to mention. Although Professor Frost refers to his work as a textbook, which carries with it some implication of dryness, there is nothing dull about it and every page reflects his boundless and ardent interest in living insects.—H. B. W.